

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9143

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

1. BUREAU-IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EINHAUS OF THE CONFERENCE
STAFF, MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED
AS TO WHETHER THE BUREAU ELECTED AT LAST YEAR'S PREPCOM
SHOULD STILL REMAIN IN OFFICE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE PREP
COM HAS NOW BEEN OPENED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FULL
MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN. THE UN LEGAL OFFICE HAS RULED THAT
"BALANCE OF EVIDENCE" IS THAT BUREAU WAS ELECTED FOR FULL PREPARATORY
PERIOD, BUT THE PREPCOM IS THE MASTER OF ITS OWN HOUSE
IN THIS REGARD. SECRETARIT SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT,
RAISE ISSUE, HOWEVER. EINHAUS SUGGESTED THAT THERE SEEM TO
BE THREE POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO PREPCOM--

- A) RECONFIRMING THE BUREAU AS NOW CONSTITUTED;
- B) ELECTING A NEW BUREAU;
- C) RECONFIRMING THE EXISTING BUREAU BUT EXPANDING
IT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP
OF THE PREPCOM. (IN THIS REGARD, EINHAUS POSED

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THE QUESTION AS TO WHETNER THE U.S. WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN A POSITION ON THE BUREAU).

2. THE MISSION IS NOT SURE WHERE THE QUESTION OF THE
BUREAU ORIGINATED. APPARENTLY, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS
HAVE RAISED IT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT CONFERENCE SYG
DA COSTA HAS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS IDEA, SINCE

PREPCOM CHAIRMAN RAMACHANDRAN IS REPORTEDLY QUITE CRITICAL OF DA COSTA'S HANDLING OF THE CONFERENCE. AS PER DISCUSSION WITH TOUSSAINT, MISSION INFORMED EINHAUS IN A SECOND DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT THAT IT WOULD NOT SEEM ADVISABLE TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS FOR THE BUREAU. ACCORDING TO EINHAUS, DA COSTA WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF REGIONAL GROUPS IN GENEVA ON MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 23. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO EINHAUS, THE CONFERENCE ITSELF WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF THAT DAY.)

3. EINHAUS TOLD MISOFF THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN DA COSTA AND STANDKE HAD COME TO A COMPLETE BREAK. THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS, EINHAUS SAID, WAS THAT STANDKE WAS SPREADING THE ALLEGATION TO THE INDIANS AND OTHERS THAT IT WAS INDEED DA COSTA WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE BUREAU. DA COSTA'S RESPONSE TO THIS WAS TO MAKE A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE SYG ABOUT STANDKE'S BEHAVIOR AND REQUEST A REPRIMAND. EINHAUS CITED OTHER PROBLEMS WITH STANDKE AS WELL. IN THE MEANTIME, DA COSTA HAS WITHDRAWN HIS ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NGO'S TO OST AND HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT PERMIT STANDKE TO TAKE PART IN THE PREPCOM OTHER THAN AS AN OBSERVER SITTING IN THE BACK ROW. THERE IS NO LEGAL QUESTION INVOLVED HERE, HOWEVER.

4. COMMENT: THE MISSION DOES NOT PRESUME TO JUDGE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VORACITY OF ALL OF EINHAUS' ALLEGATIONS OR TO ASSIGN BLAME TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. WHAT DOES SEEM CLEAR TO US IS THAT STANDKE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING COMPLETELY ELIMINATED FROM CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. IN THE MISSION'S VIEW, IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE FOR THE USG TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS QUARREL. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, DA COSTA IS THE CONFERENCE SYG, AND IT IS WITH HIM WE WILL HAVE TO WORK. END COMMENT.

5. CONFERENCE AGENDA-EINHAUS SAYS THAT HE IS AT A LOSS TO SEE HOW PREPCOM CAN FILL UP TWO WEEKS' TIME. THE FIRST DAYS AT LEAST HE EXPECTS TO BE FILLED WITH A KIND OF GENERAL DEBATE AS ALL THE NEW PARTICIPATIONS IN THE PREPCOM WILL TAKE THE OCCASION TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE. SELECTION OF THE SUBJECT AREAS SHOULD TAKE NO TIME AT ALL; THE ESCAP MODEL IS THE MOST LIKELY ONE TO BE ADOPTED, HE SAYS. ORGANIZATIONALLY, EINHAUS BELIEVES, THE PREPCOM WILL HAVE TO TAKE SOME DECISIONS ON THE QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SUMMARIES OF THE NATIONAL PAPERS READY IN TIME FOR THE NEXT PREPCOM. THERE WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE PAPERS ON THE ISSUES AND SUB-ISSUES CONTAINED IN THE CONFERENCE AGENDA, BASED ON THE 61ST ECOSOC. EINHAUS

SAYS A SERIES OF PAPERS ON EACH OF THE SUB-ITEMS UNDER ITEMS 1 AND 2 SHOULD BE PREPARED. THERE WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PAPERS SUPPLIED BY NGO'S AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

6. EINHAUS CLAIMS THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS LIKELY TO PRESS CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT TO TAKE POSITIONS ON POLITICAL ISSUES. DA COSTA WILL MAINTAIN HIS REFUSAL TO DO THIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH LEMMA OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT, MISOFF GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE 77 WOULD BE LIKELY TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE "PHILOSOPHY" OF THE CONFERENCE AT THIS PREPCOM.

7. FUTURE WORK-EINHAUS SAID THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL PAPERS WAS LIKELY TO BE MOVED TO JUNE 30. WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS DATE SUMMARIES COULD BE AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL MEETINGS, PROVIDED THESE MET LATER IN JULY OR AUGUST. THE SEPTEMBER PREPCOM MIGHT HAVE TO BE MOVED BACK A WEEK TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH UN CONERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO BE HELD IN ARGENTINA.
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